



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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MINUTES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

September 14, 2015

Grafton Municipal Center – Room F

7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Daryl Rynning, Chairman
Laura Often, Vice Chair
Teri Turgeon, Secretary
Peter Carlson, Member

Student Bianca Carangelo
Representatives: Hannah Kelley

Also Present: Dr. James Cummings, Superintendent of Schools
Tracey Calo, Assistant Superintendent
Daniel Gale, Finance Director

Call to Order – Open Session

1. Educational Reports

- a. **Adult Education:** Katie Cederberg Wesgan gave an overview of the Adult Continuing Education which she is hoping to rejuvenate. The planning and organizing began with a public survey which helped determine what the general interest was, and then they reached out to instructors. Classes will be starting this coming week with 7 classes running for 5 weeks. Ms. Wesgan worked with Mr. Pignataro on space needs. The cost of each program will be based on a minimum class size requirement. Ms. Wesgan stated that in comparison to programs such as Assabet After Dark they were similar in cost. Additional instructors have been in contact with Ms. Wesgan, so she hopes to expand the program in the upcoming years, but for now she was hoping for success in the fall. Mrs. Turgeon suggested presenting to other groups such as the Selectmen to help get the word out. Ms. Wesgan was thanked for her efforts and the School Committee wished her much success.
- b. **Special Education Update:** Arnold Lundwall, Special Education Director was present to give an overview of the Coordinated Program Review (CPR). He reviewed the process and the timeline. The 2015 records were reviewed for strengthen and weakness. A draft report was received this past summer and on September 4th the final report was issued. From here, the district has 20 days to submit a corrected action plan which was a “shell” of what will be

done over the next calendar year. Mr. Lundwall said overall; Grafton did well and received a commendation. Mr. Lundwall reviewed the following topics: Civil rights, English Learner Education (ELE), Process and Timelines, Draft Report/Final Report. Mr. Lundwall reviewed the definitions relative to the rating system. He also discussed the Corrective Action Plan, and the Summary of Compliance Criteria. In conclusion, Mr. Lundwall discussed the next steps; CPR CAP Webinar scheduled for Sept 10th, a meeting with Corey Steinman, PQA Liaison, the development of a Corrective Action Plan, Progress Monitoring and a 3 year Mid Cycle Review.

2. General Business

- a. Summer Project Review: Discussion postponed.
- b. FY17 Budget Timeline: Dr. Cummings provided the FY17 Calendar and a copy of last year's for comparison purposes. The proposed calendar was similar to last years. The budget overview will begin in December, with hearing dates in January, however it could be modified if need be. Mrs. Turgeon asked if the budget book would be similar as last year. Dr. Cummings said it would have minimal changes; the main view will look the same, however it would contain a bit more detail/information than the past.
- c. Opiate Workshop Overview: Dr. Cummings and Mrs. Often attended an MASC workshop relative to the Opiate Crisis in Massachusetts. The main presenters were Senator Jennifer Flanagan, Worcester County Sheriff, Lewis Evangelidis, and three members of the Easton Public Schools Nursing team. Both Dr. Cummings and Mrs. Often stated this was a very informative workshop. They both felt the need to bring more attention to this crisis; all had to be more aware and responsible. A meeting with the nursing staff in the near future was suggested. The school policy would have to be reviewed and amended accordingly. Mrs. Often stated that this review should also include the tobacco and Cigarette policy. The Committee would also like to take a fresh look at the wellness committee and possibly partner with the Worcester Health Alliance, the Board of Health and the Recreation Commission, come up with an interconnected plan.
- d. Charter School Proposal: Mr. Carlson discussed a recent news article on the opposition of the Shrewsbury School Committee in granting two charter schools licenses in their area. Mr. Carlson felt this could potentially affect Grafton, being right next door. He asked the Committee's feelings sending a similar letter to the state in order to Grafton's opinion on record. A decision would be made by the State within the next few weeks so if agreed, a letter would have to be prepared quickly. Dr. Cummings felt the Shrewsbury letter was excellent and the points were accurate and true for Grafton as well. Mrs. Turgeon asked if we had as rich and deep a curriculum as Shrewsbury; did we have a parallel argument. Mrs. Turgeon would not want to just piggyback on a Shrewsbury letter; she wanted to do it for the right reasons. Dr. Cummings was not sure if we met the level of criteria as Shrewsbury in programs such as STEM, he'd have to do a more extensive comparison to be sure. Mrs. Rynning felt Shrewsbury made very good points in their letter but

Grafton would have to write a letter which was simple and to the point on how this would impact Grafton. Mrs. Turgeon would be opposed to this at this time because sometimes it is more about the children and can't be just about the money. However, she was opposed to the funding piece, but not opposed to children having the options. Mrs. Often understands goals of doing what is best for the children, but she was personally opposed to charter schools. They had too much control and did not follow the same rules as public school systems. Mr. Carlson was in favor of writing a letter, he agreed with Mrs. Turgeon that not all schools were set up for all children, but noted there were schools available for these students along with school choice. Mrs. Rynning did not agree with how unregulated charter schools were and the amount of funding they could potentially take away from public schools. A motion was made by Mr. Carlson to authorize the superintendent to draft a brief letter to the state opposing the Massachusetts Bio-Tech Charter School. Motion seconded by Mrs. Often. Motion passed 3-1 School Committee and 2-0 Student Representative.

3. Superintendent's Report

- a. District Update - Dr. Cummings announced that Kerri Dubois, foods services manager was leaving Grafton and going on to Quaboag School District. They began the hiring process and Betsy Labonte would be starting this week. Dr. Cummings had set the dates for the budget subcommittee; he received recommendations while building the schedule, he felt they would be in good shape moving forward.
- b. Upcoming Activities: Dr. Cummings distributed an outline of September and October events; he would have November and December outlined soon. Mrs. Often and Mr. Carlson would be attending the book fair and Octoberfest .

4. Future Agenda Planning:

- a. Mrs. Often said the policy review schedule was a bit tight. She did not think they would keep up with the current schedule. She and Mr. Carlson would be meeting soon. Mrs. Rynning suggested choosing priorities and bring those in first, then go on from there. Mrs. Turgeon suggested splitting the policy list up amongst the group to help catch up.
- b. Mrs. Rynning discussed the committee vacancy and the process. If they were able to follow the timetable, they should be ready to interview candidates on September 21.
- c. Mr. Carlson suggested future workshop to discuss policies and findings.

5. Approval of Minutes – June 29, 2015

A motion was made by Mrs. Often to approve the June 29, 2015 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Mr. Carlson. Motion carried 3-0-1 School Committee members and 2-0 Student Representatives. Mrs. Turgeon abstained.

6. Financial Report

- a. A motion was made by Mrs. Turgeon that the School Committee approve Warrant #10, dated September 3, 2015 in the amount of \$36,264.54. Motion seconded by Mr. Carlson. Motion Carried 4-0 School Committee and 2-0 Student Representatives.
- b. A motion was made by Mr. Carlson that the School Committee approve Warrant #12, dated September 17, 2015 in the amount of \$401,535.87. Motion seconded by Mrs. Turgeon. Motion Carried 4-0 School Committee and 2-0 School Representatives.

7. Policy - None

8. Correspondence – Mrs. Rynning noted an email from a resident regarding the bus going through Highpoint Estates noting she responded and Mr. Gale was working on this change. Mr. Gale stated this was a private road and they typically did not go into these subdivisions. However because of the curve on Adams Road, they may be adjusting the pickup site. He was working with bus company.

At 8:30 a motion was made by Mr. Carlson to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Often. Motion carried 4-0 School Committee and 2-0 Student Representatives.

Respectfully submitted



Cindy Ide
Recording Secretary